



Appendix K

Public Meetings/Public Relations

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Compliance with the Final Environmental Impact Statement

Instructions on public relations and public meetings are covered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement under the heading “Public Involvement and Issues” (Appendix C of the gypsy moth FEIS). All inquiries will be answered; all complaints on program operations will be investigated and the findings documented.

Public notification procedures that apply to gypsy moth control projects are the following:

- ◆ Providing public notice of scoping activities (e.g., when and where public meetings are scheduled).
- ◆ Making the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and related documents available to inform agencies (U.S. Department of Interior, State environmental regulatory agencies), groups, and individuals who may be interested in or affected by proposed actions.
- ◆ Announcing treatment dates to allow anyone who has questions or concerns about adverse insecticide sensitivity to seek medical advice and adequate shelter. Individuals will be able to avoid exposure during and after treatment.

Public Meetings

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, a public scoping meeting is mandatory to provide for public input on issues and concerns and to limit the scope of the analysis to be provided by the EA. The public must be notified of when and where the public meeting will be held. The purpose of the public meeting is to get public involvement in the decision making-process, to identify issues of concern, and to provide information on the various options and the consequences. When chemical applications are being recommended, a Science and Technology or Methods Development (?) representative should be present at each public meeting.

At the public meeting, do the following:

- ◆ Present all the options available (including No Action) along with your recommendation or preferred option.
- ◆ Explain the reasoning and logic for the preferred/recommended option.
- ◆ Discuss the consequences of the proposed action (if any).

In addition, State and Federal agencies that cooperate with APHIS and the Forest Service will actively seek public participation and involvement at the local level.

The aims of the public involvement process are the following:

- ◆ To explain the proposed action and its need
- ◆ To discuss the consequences (if any) of the proposed action
- ◆ To identify local issues and concerns
- ◆ To identify individuals sensitive to the insecticides planned for use so that appropriate mitigating measures can be developed
- ◆ To stimulate discussion of alternative measures and their consequences
- ◆ To guide the environmental assessment process

Because the goal of eradication projects is to eradicate gypsy moth, residents do **not** have the option of having their property dropped from the proposed treatment block. Mitigating measures will be employed to minimize the concerns of those residents who are unable to opt out of control projects.

The public must be informed of the treatment boundaries and when (if approved) treatment will begin. Maps must show the areas to be treated. With this information, the public will know what to expect.

Public Relations

At the local level, the lead agency in the program should handle publicity on program operations. Usually, a State agency is the lead agency because of (1) extensive rural and community contacts and (2) familiarity with the local media. However, there must be cooperation between all agencies to provide uniform, factual information to all segments of the public.

After selection, one individual will act as program spokesperson. The media will receive the name and telephone number of the official spokesperson. By having one spokesperson, information flow is managed (the spokesperson knows what information has been given to the media) and the quality of the information is maintained (the spokesperson is always kept well-informed).

